

*Physical Disabilities
Through the Lifespan*



Trauma

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Trauma: Defining Characteristics

- Trauma occurs predominantly in young population
- Sudden onset of trauma
- Not a progressive disease
- Pre-morbid conditions, e.g., substance abuse, depression
- Multiple injuries
- Importance of PTSD



Research Priorities

- Need for basic science in identifying pathophysiology of acute neurologic injury, chronic neurologic sequelae, and secondary medical consequences of injury
- Need for longitudinal cohort studies to better define the natural history of secondary conditions and disability post-trauma
- Need to understand the role of depression in function and quality of life



Research Priorities

- Need to better define the epidemiology and consequences of mild TBI
- Need to develop sensitive measures of function and quality of life
- Need to translate optimal primary care models into practice
- Need to develop effective strategies for promoting successful long-term exercise programs



Research Priorities

- Need for RCT's to identify cost-effective prosthetic alternatives
- Need to develop and evaluate self-management strategies for promoting health and well-being post-trauma
- Need for controlled studies to identify effective rehabilitation strategies to prevent adverse secondary conditions, improve function, and enhance quality of life